Pollution control plans

2564. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to prepare pollution control plans for a number of seriously polluted cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reasons for heavy pollution in the cities have been identified; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to control/contain the level of pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b)The Government had convened a two-day conference of State Environment Secretaries and Chairpersons of Pollution Control Boards/Committees on 8th and 9th July, 2002 to discuss various issues relating to pollution control for formulation and implementation of action plans for control of pollution in cities. The State Governments and Pollution Control Boards/Committees have been asked to prepare action plans in a time bound manner.

(c) and (d) The sources of heavy pollution in the cities include emissions and effluent discharges from industries, vehicular emissions and municipal solid waste. The steps taken by the Government to control pollution include the following;

Implementation of industry specific effluent and emission standards.

Setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small scale industrial units.

Adoption of more stringent emission norms for vehicles in the entire country in a phased manner.

Supply of improved quality of auto fuels *i.e.,* petrol and diesel.

Promotion of environmentally acceptable fuels like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) as auto fuels.

Inventorisation of polluting sources and pollution load.

Augmentation of Water and Air quality monitoring stations.

Implementation of Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Plantations programme

†2565. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of trees planted in the country, State-wise, the type of trees and the total area covered under plantations, during each of the last three years and during the current year;

(b) the target fixed for plantations during 2002-2003;

(c) the estimated amount to be spent for this purpose;

(d) whether there has been decrease in the number of trees, especially teak trees; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase their number?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIT.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Under point No. 16 of 20 point programme, afforestation/ tree planting activities are carried out through out the country annually depending on the funds made available under central and state plans. An amount of Rs. 175.25 crores is earmarked for afforestation under the Central Plan Funds alone. The choice of species for plantation is determined on the basis of agro-climatic conditions by state governments. The targets & achievements during last three years under 20 point programme including tentative targets for 2002-03 are given in the Statement (Seebelow).

(d) There has been no species-wise survey as yet.

(e) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.